

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 /084 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL:JZ

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

ARA/PAN:MBELL (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 003075

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

FO*LOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT STATE DEPARTMENT NOON
BRIEFING, JANUARY 7:

Q: IS MR. BUNKER BACK DOWN IN PANAMA AGAIN? AND IF HE IS,
WHEN IS HE GOING BACK TO GENEVA?

AND THIRDLY, DOES THE FACT THAT HE'S GONE TO PANAMA IF HE
HAS, MEAN THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT MUCH TO OCCUR IN GENEVA
BECAUSE HE'S NOT THERE?

A: HE IS IN PANAMA. I EXPECT HIM TO GO RATHER SOON TO
GENEVA. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATE.

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT IS
GOING ON IN GENEVA ON THE BASIS OF HIS PRESENCE OR ABSENCE.
THE TALKS IN GENEVA ARE OF A CLARIFYING NATURE AND THEY
HAVE BEEN GOING ON WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
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TATIVE THERE, AND IT'S AS I THINK WAS MADE REASONABLY CLEAR

SATURDAY, THE ACTIVITIES WHICH THE INTERESTED PARTIES ARE
CARRYING ON, WE HOPE, WILL LEAD TO A NEW MOMENTUM AT GENEVA.
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.

Q: THEN TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS, SHOULD WE DRAW A CONCLUSION
TO THE CANAL ZONE NEGOTIATIONS?

A: I THINK YOU COULD DRAW THAT CONCLUSION, YES.

Q: BUT ARE WE SENDING IN A NEW PROPOSAL?

A: I COULD NOT GO INTO ANY SPECIFICS AT ALL. BUT THE FACT
THAT HE'S THERE SHOWS THAT WE ARE PURSUING THIS WITH MORE
CONCERN.

Q: HOW LONG DOES HE EXPECT TO STAY THERE?

A: THIS PARTICULAR VISIT TO PANAMA, I BELIEVE, IS ONLY
JUST FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. KISSINGER

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